



22-28 September 2023



bulletin

 A horizontal row of five overlapping circles in shades of grey, teal, blue, and purple. The letter 'A' is written in white inside the purple circle.

Adult and Health

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Alcohol and Drugs

[UK's first safer drug consumption facility approved by authorities in Glasgow](#)

A BBC article has highlighted the approval of the UK's first official consumption facility for illegal drugs. The pilot project will mean drug users can take their own drugs under the supervision of trained health professionals. The pilot project will be based in Glasgow and is expected to open next year.

[Alcohol and Drug Partnerships \(ADP\) 2022/23 Annual Survey](#)

The Scottish Government has published a report on the responses to the annual survey of Alcohol and Drug Partnerships (ADPs). 29 out of the 30 ADPs in Scotland responded to the survey with most ADPs reporting that drug death review groups were in place in 2022/23. The report also notes that all ADPs have reported some level of involvement of people with lived experience and family members within the ADP structure, but notes that there were fewer opportunities for people with lived experience and family members to be involved during the scrutiny stage, such as monitoring and evaluation of services, compared to the planning and implementation stages.



Care Homes/ Care at Home

[Visiting, meaningful connection and Anne's Law](#)

The Care Inspectorate Anne's Law project team is developing resources to help services support visiting and meaningful connections as the Anne's Law legislation is being prepared. We have published our latest resources including factsheets to accompany our recent Meaningful Connection webinars, a report of the findings from our engagement visits to care homes and a report on the findings from a consultation with care home staff.

Disabilities

[Scottish Parliament's first summit celebrating International Day of Persons with Disabilities](#)

The Scottish Parliament has invited people from across Scotland to attend its first summit to celebrate International Day of Persons with Disabilities in Holyrood. The summit will take place on 25 November. It will feature speakers such as Baroness Grey-Thompson DBE, multi-gold medal winner in paralympic sport, and Jim Elder-Woodward OBE, a disabled activist and campaigner for equality and human rights. Those interested in attending in person or online can register [here](#).

[The disability employment gap in Scotland](#)

SPICe Spotlight has published a guest blog from the Fraser of Allander Institute exploring the disability employment gap in Scotland. It notes that Scotland has a higher proportion of working age disabled people compared to the UK, but it has a lower rate of employment among disabled people. However, since 2013 there has been a focus on improving the employment gap and since 2014 disabled people moved into work faster in Scotland compared to the rest of UK. It also notes that disabled people are less likely to have educational qualifications in Scotland.

Mental Health

[MWC investigation report on the death of an 18-year-old man in hospital in Scotland](#)

The Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland has published findings from its investigation into the death of a young man who died in hospital while being treated for mental ill health. In its report, the Commission outlines the key findings from the investigation including problems in transition from child and adolescent mental health services to locality adult mental health services. The report also includes a number of recommendations for the relevant health boards and Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) that were involved in the care of the young man and for all health boards, HSCPS, NHS Education Scotland (NES), the Royal College of Psychiatrists CAMHS Faculty, and the Scottish Government.



[Suicide Bereavement Support Service year 2 evaluation report](#)

A report covering year 2 of the multi-year evaluation of the Suicide Bereavement Support Service (SBSS) has been published by the Scottish Government. The SBSS was launched in response to the National Suicide Prevention Leadership Group's (NSPLG's) recommendation that the Scottish Government fund a pilot to test a new model of suicide bereavement support. The pilot was originally scheduled to end in April 2023 but has been extended to March 2024. The report notes the service has received 155 referrals over 19 months, however referrals to the service have reduced over time. Activities to raise awareness and to establish new pathways have been undertaken by the service which has led to an expansion of referral sources, however this hasn't resulted in an increase in referral rates.

[Charities in England urge Prime Minister to reform mental health law \(England\)](#)

The National Autistic Society and Mencap are calling on the UK Government to bring the Mental Health Bill into law before the next general election. They warn that if the Bill is dropped before the next general election, thousands of autistic people and people with learning disabilities will be wrongly held in mental health hospitals.

Other Health and Social Care

[Findings published following Independent Review of Inspection, Scrutiny and Regulation](#)

The Scottish Government has published the findings of the Independent Review of Inspection, Scrutiny and Regulation of Social Care in Scotland (IRISR). The report sets out 38 recommendations across five themes, concluding that there needs to be cultural and legislative changes to systems of inspection, scrutiny, and regulation to one that prioritises improvement, is comprehensive and is consistent in what it inspects, scrutinises and regulates. Social Care Minister Maree Todd said the findings of the review, chaired by Dame Sue Bruce, would be fully considered by the Scottish Government before an update to parliament sets out next steps. An [easy read version](#) and [executive summary](#) have also been published, alongside an [analysis report](#) of the call for evidence and [easy read version](#) and [executive summary](#) of that analysis report

[CCPS blog on increasing social care staff rates](#)

The Coalition of Care and Support Providers in Scotland (CCPS) has published a guest blog around the pay gap facing the social care workforce and commitments to increase the social care staff rates. Karen Sheridan, Chief Operating Officer of Community Integrated Care and CCPS Board member, states that the announcement by the Scottish Government to increase social care staff rates of pay to £12 per hour from April 2024 is welcome, however notes that there is some confusion on what this really means and warns that delaying the pay increase undermines staff morale. The CCPS 4 Steps to Fair Work Campaign urges the Scottish Government to implement the promise of a minimum of £12 per hour for social care staff, starting from 1 April 2023.



[Second National Care Service Forum to be held 30 October](#)

Alzheimer Scotland has highlighted the Scottish Government's second National Care Service (NCS) Forum which will be held at the Glasgow Science Centre on 30 October. The Forum is an opportunity for people with lived experience of accessing social care support, unpaid carers, people who work in community health and social care, and other organisations to talk about the progress of the National Care Service.

[Survey findings suggests unpaid carers are spending more time in their caring role](#)

The ALLIANCE has highlighted the findings from the latest Carers Trust survey which suggests that carers are not receiving the support they need and that they are now spending more time caring for relatives. The survey findings suggest that, in Scotland, the amount of time spent caring has increased in the last 12 months for 52% of unpaid carers, and 75% of unpaid carers are not able to get a break from their caring role when they need it.

[Consultation on return to practice requirement for social workers](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has launched a consultation on the introduction of return to practice requirements for social workers. The SSSC is proposing, as part of the [Future Proofing Programme](#), return to practice requirements for social workers who have been out of social work practice and not registered for over two years so they can update their knowledge, skills and competence while building their confidence to practice. Social workers returning to practice after more than two years would need to complete the learning within the 12 months before applying to register, with a tiered approach depending on how long they have been out of practice. The consultation closes on 3 November.

[SSSC consultation on continuous professional learning](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) is reviewing the requirements for continuous professional learning (CPL) and is seeking views from people working in social work, social care, children and young people services, Care Inspectorate inspectors, employers and other stakeholders on its proposals for a new CPL process. The SSSC is looking to move away from the current model of recording hours and days and instead focus on key skills and knowledge needed at different stages of the career journey. A number of other changes are proposed in the new CPL process and the SSSC is hosting online information sessions throughout October for those who want to learn more about the proposed changes. The consultation will close on 3 November 2023.

[New definition of nursing launched to reflect changes in the profession](#)

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) has launched a new definition of nursing to reflect the complexity, range of skills, and responsibility of registered nurses. The RCN last published a definition of nursing in 2003 and notes that the profession has changed since then. The new definition will sit alongside the revised principles of nursing and will underpin the RCN professional framework. A digital resource which



brings together the definition, the principles, and career framework is due to be launched at the end of the year.

[Funding for local authorities to prepare for new CQC assessment of social services \(England\)](#)

The Department of Health and Social Care has announced that it will provide funding for local authorities in England to prepare for their first formal assessment of adult social care services by the Care Quality Commission (CQC). The one-off grant funding will be provided to local authorities in the 2023/24 financial year.

Disclaimer

This weekly bulletin is produced as an update on the key issues concerning adults and health.

Each item in the bulletin has a hyperlinked headline that will take the reader to the original source.

We collate items from our parliamentary and Scottish Government monitoring covering health and social care news from throughout the UK, and current research and policy development. We use a variety of sources for the bulletin, including alerts from [Newsdirect](#), [Community Care](#), [Children & Young People Now](#) and [ISD Scotland](#).

We aim to be representative rather than comprehensive, so we try to cover only the main Scottish stories, along with some stories from the rest of the UK. The purpose of the bulletin is to alert readers to items of interest. It should be noted that these items are the works of others and are neither authorised nor endorsed by the Care Inspectorate, with the exception of publications which are identified as Care Inspectorate publications.

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